

# **Solar Panel Project District 1**

Locations:

1656 Union Street, Eureka

1650 Albee Street, Eureka

90 West Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah

EAs: 01-0AA004, 01-0AA034, 01-0AA024

## **Focused Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration**



Prepared by the  
State of California Department of Transportation

December 30, 2009



# General Information About This Document

## ***What's in this document?***

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Focused Initial Study (IS), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project located in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties, California. This document tells you why the project is being proposed, how the existing environment could be affected by the project, the potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

## ***What should you do?***

- Please read this initial study.
- Additional copies of it, as well as of the technical studies we relied on in preparing it, are available for review at the Caltrans District 03 Office of Environmental Planning located at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833, at the Humboldt County Library located at 1313 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Eureka, CA 95501 (707) 269-1900, and at the Mendocino County Library Ukiah Library located at 105 North Main Street, Ukiah, CA 94582 (707) 463-4491.
- We'd like to hear what you think. If you have any comments regarding the proposed project, please send your written comments to the Department by January 28, 2010.
- Submit comments via postal mail to:  
Mr. Lupe Jimenez, Environmental Branch Chief  
Department of Transportation, Environmental Planning  
2800 Gateway Oaks Dr. Ste. 100, Sacramento, CA 95833
- Submit comments via e-mail to: [Lupe\\_Jimenez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Lupe_Jimenez@dot.ca.gov).
- Please submit comments by the deadline: January 28, 2010.

## ***What happens next?***

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may 1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, 2) do additional environmental studies, or 3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Caltrans, Attn: Lupe Jimenez, Environmental Planning, 2800 Gateway Oaks Dr., Sacramento, CA 95833; (916) 274-0568 Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, 1-800-735-2929.

SCH:  
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**Solar Panel Project District 1**

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01-0AA004

1650 Albee Street, Eureka, CA  
01-0AA034


90 West Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah, CA  
01-0AA024

**FOCUSED INITIAL STUDY with Proposed Negative Declaration**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Resources Code  
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C)

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation

12/29/09  
Date of Approval

  
John Webb, Chief  
Office of Environmental Services - South  
California Department of Transportation



## **Proposed Negative Declaration**

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

### ***Project Description***

Caltrans proposes to install solar panels at various State owned buildings within Caltrans District 1 in compliance with the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program and the Governor's Executive Order S-20-04. The proposed project locations are at the District 1 Office Building (the principal administration and engineering building at 1656 Union Street, Eureka, CA); the Equipment Shop at 1650 Albee Street, Eureka, CA; and the Maintenance Facility at 90 West Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah, CA. At the Maintenance Facility in Ukiah, the Equipment Shop is located in the northwest area of the station.

### ***Determination***

This proposed Negative Declaration (ND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is the Department's intent to adopt an ND for this project. This does not mean that the Department's decision regarding the project is final. This ND is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

The Department has prepared an Initial Study for this project and, pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The proposed project would have no effect on agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, floodplain, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, visual/aesthetics, or utilities/service systems.
- In addition, the proposed project would have no significant effect on any hazardous material/waste.
- No mitigation measures are required.

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John Webb,  
Chief, Office of Environmental Services - South  
California Department of Transportation

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Date



## **Initial Study**

### ***Project Title***

Solar Panel Project in District 1

### ***Lead Agency Name, Address and Contact Person***

California Department of Transportation

2800 Gateway Oaks Drive

Sacramento, CA 95833

Mr. Lupe Jimenez, North Region Environmental Branch Chief, S4

(916) 274-0557

### ***Project Location***

The project are located at the District 1 Office Building (the principal administration and engineering building at 1656 Union Street, Eureka, CA); the Equipment Shop at 1650 Albee Street, Eureka, CA; and the Maintenance Facility at 90 West Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah, CA. In Ukiah at the Maintenance Facility, the Equipment Shop is located in the northwest area of the station.

### ***Project Sponsor's Name and Address***

California Department of Transportation

John Webb, Chief, Office of Environmental Services – South

703 B Street

Marysville, CA 95482

### ***Purpose and Need***

Caltrans proposes to install solar panels on various state owned buildings within District 1. The Department has committed to the Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB) program.

The purpose of this project is to provide clean renewable energy and demonstrate our willingness to meet the Governor's Executive Order S-20-04. Specifically, in this order, state agencies are to take measures to reduce grid-based energy purchases for state-owned buildings by 20% by 2015. This project proposes to place photovoltaic panels on the roof of the building and to tie the electrical output of the system into the local electrical utility.

## ***Alternatives***

There are two alternatives being studied, the “No Build” alternative and the proposed project, which is described below.

## ***Description of Project***

At the District 1 Office Building at 1656 Union Street, Eureka, CA, the project will install approximately 7,000 square feet of solar panels on the roof. At the Equipment Shop at 1650 Albee Street, Eureka, CA, the project will install approximately 5,000 square feet of solar panels on the roof of the equipment shop. At the Maintenance Facility at 90 West Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah, the project will install approximately 2,500 square feet of solar panels on the roof of this equipment shop. Neither trenching nor ground disturbance is anticipated, as all systems will be on or contained within the building.

## ***Surrounding Land Uses and Setting***

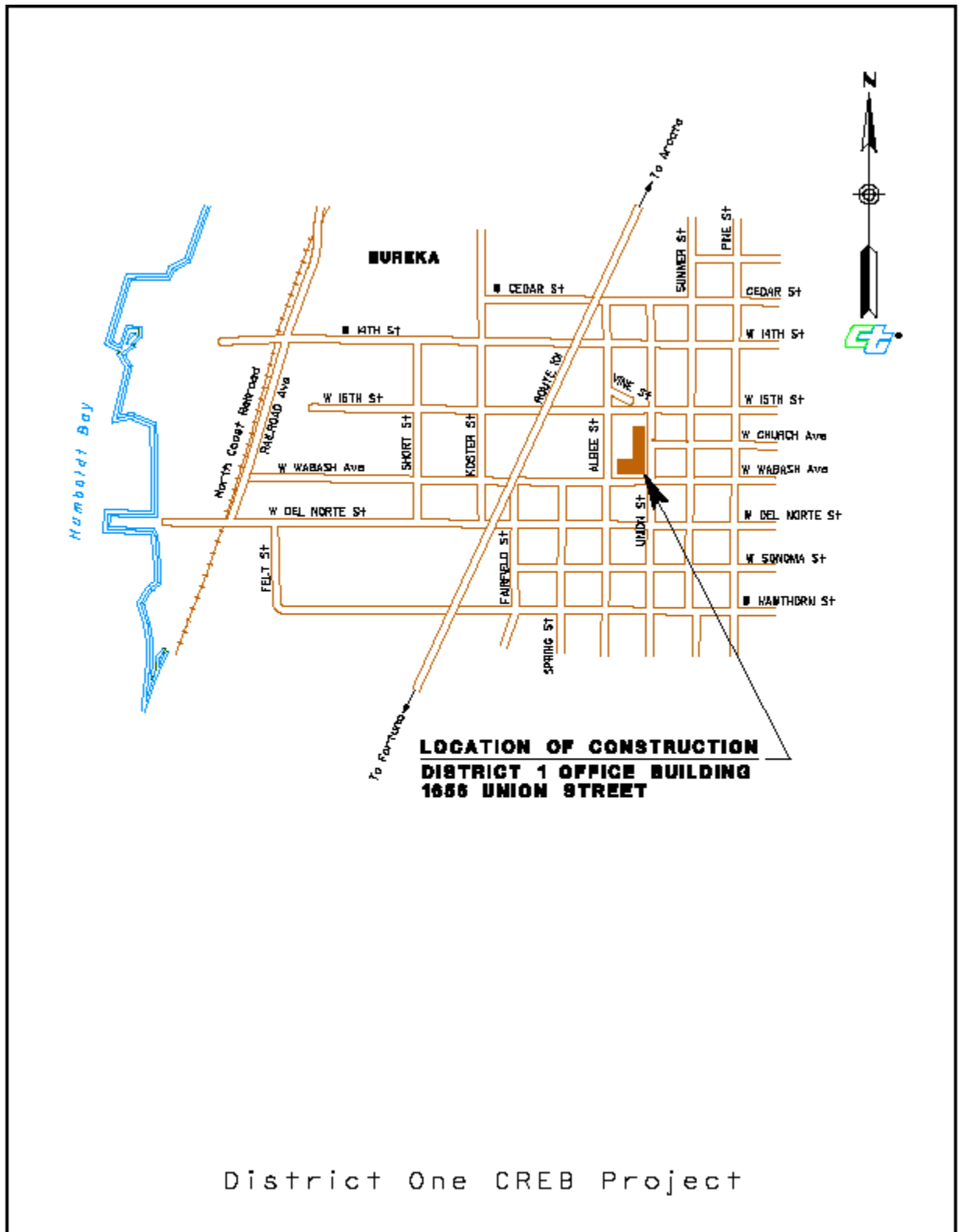
At the two locations in Eureka, the surrounding properties are mixed commercial and industrial. In Ukiah, the surrounding properties are mixed light industrial and agricultural.

## ***Permits and Approvals Needed***

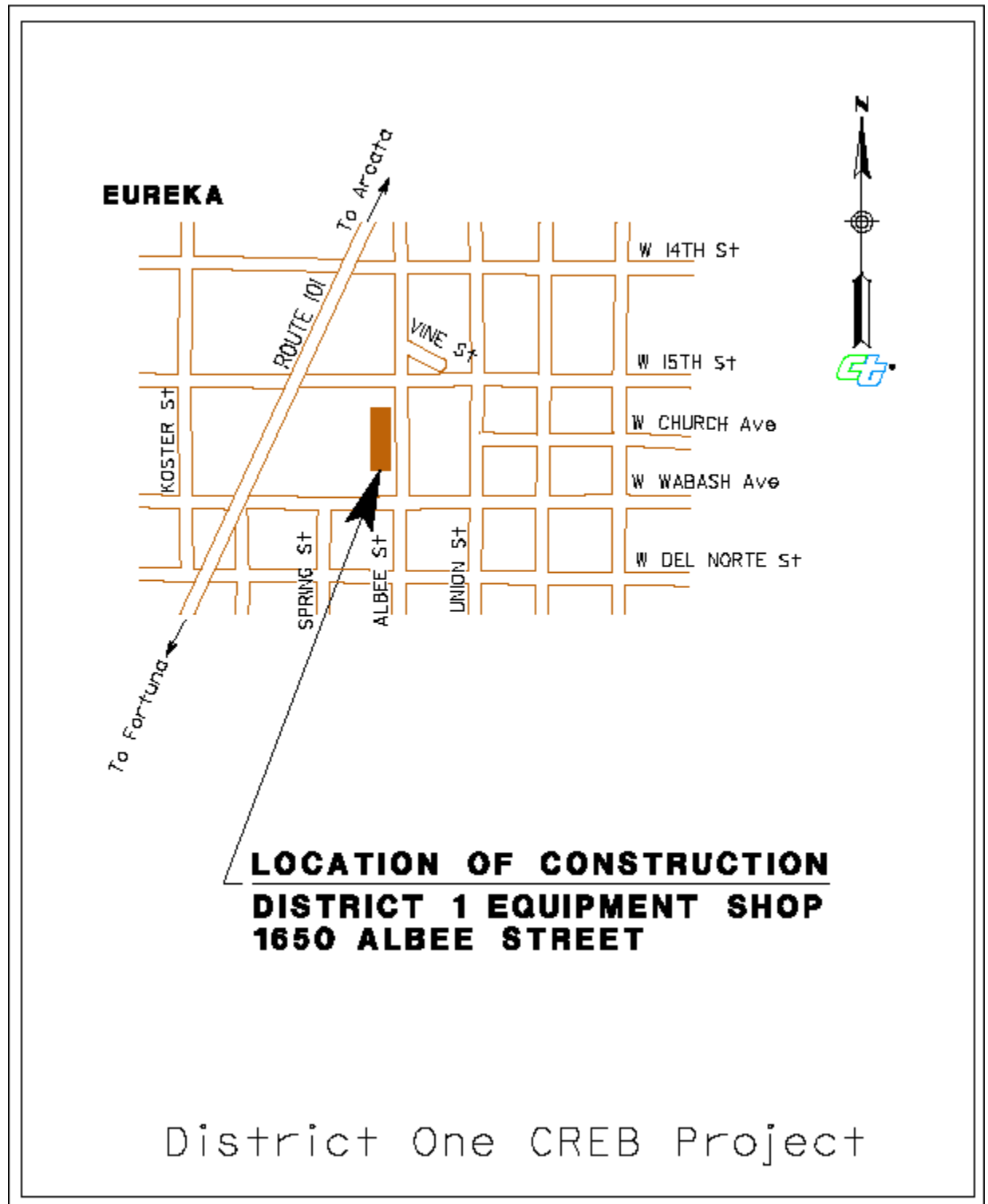
No permits are needed to construct this project.



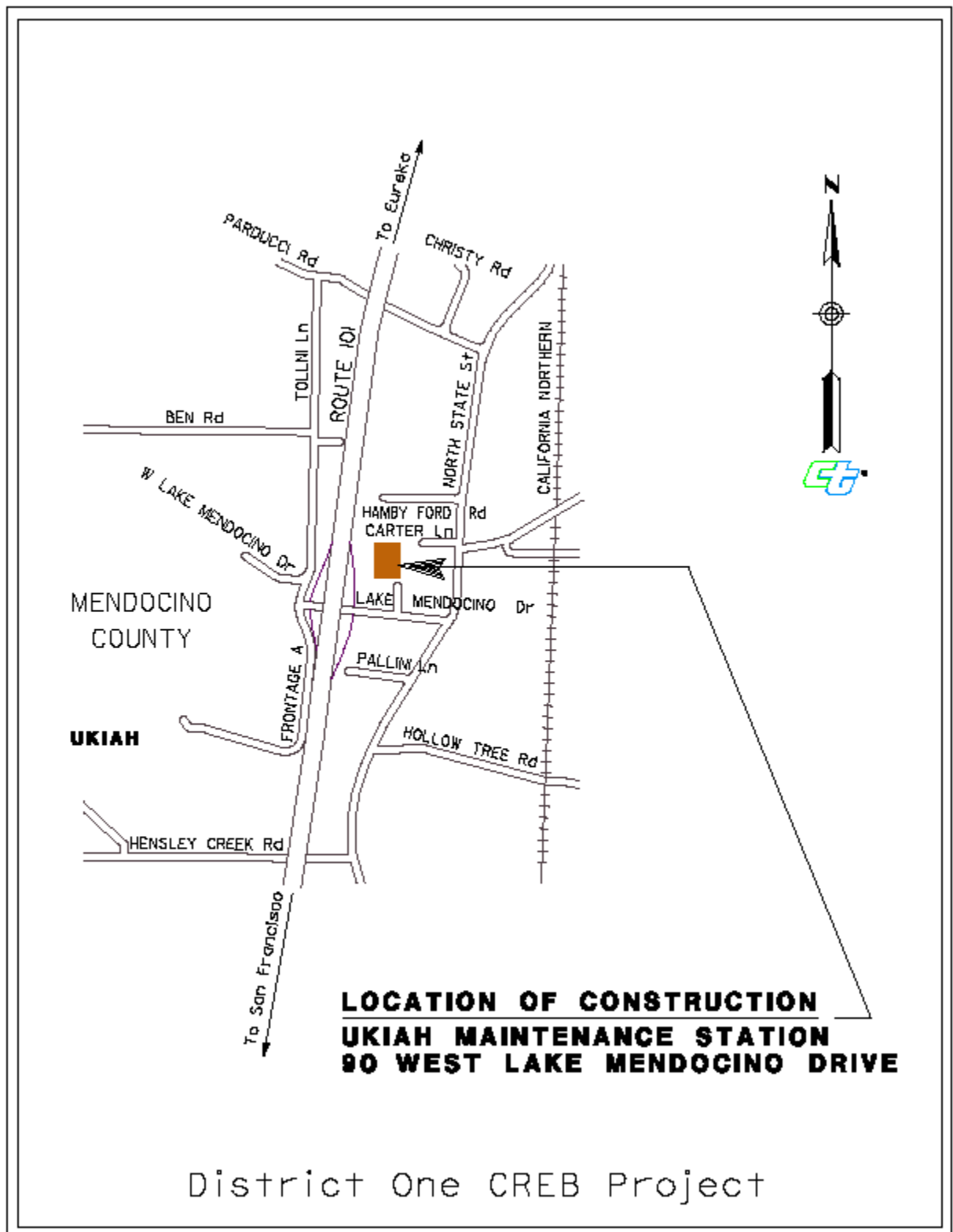
## Project Location Map



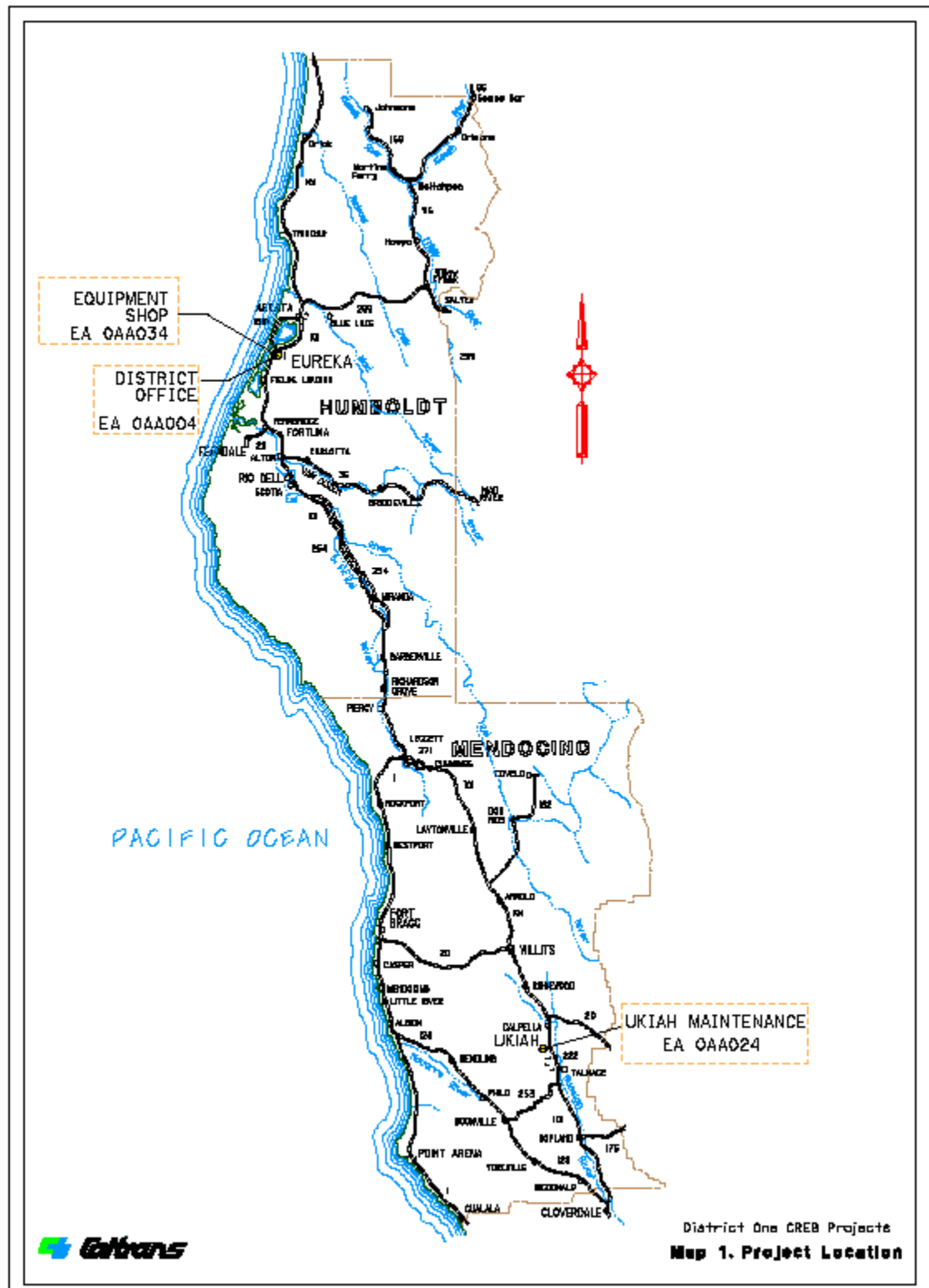
## Project Location Map



## Project Location Map



## Project Vicinity Map



## Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Aesthetics                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Agricultural Resources             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Air Quality                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Biological Resources               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Cultural Resources                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Geology/Soils                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Hazards and Hazardous Materials    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Hydrology/Water Quality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Land Use/Planning                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Mineral Resources                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Noise                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Population/Housing                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Public Services                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Recreation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Transportation/Traffic             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Utilities/Service Systems          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Mandatory Findings of Significance |

# Impacts Checklist

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The impacts checklist starting on the next page identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. The California Environmental Quality Act impact levels include “potentially significant impact,” “less than significant impact with mitigation,” “less than significant impact,” and “no impact.”

A brief explanation of each California Environmental Quality Act checklist determination follows each checklist item. The checklist is followed by a focused discussion of hazardous waste issues relating to this project.

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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**I. AESTHETICS** — Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?<br>Hydro-seeding/mulching is to used where necessary to minimize storm water impact              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

***“No Impact” determination in this section is based on the Visual Impact Assessment, October, 2009.***

**II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES** — In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on a field review by the project engineer in October 2009.***

**III. AIR QUALITY** — Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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violation?

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Air Quality Report, October, 2009.***

#### **IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES** — Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Natural Environmental Study (NES), October, 2009.***

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES** — Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on Historical Resources Compliance Reports (HRCR), dated November and December 2009.***

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS** — Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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iv) Landslides?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property. ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, November 2009.***

## **VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS —**

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

***“No Impact” determination in this section is based on review of the Updated Initial Site Assessment, October 2009.***

d) Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

***Discussion of potential impacts starts at the Hazardous Waste section of this Initial Study.***

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or,

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY —</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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j) Result in inundation by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Water Quality Analysis, November 2009.***

**IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING** — Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, November 2009.***

**X. MINERAL RESOURCES** — Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, November 2009.***

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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**XI. NOISE** — Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the Noise Report, October, 2009.***

**XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING** — Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the scope and location of the project.***

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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### XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES —

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the scope and location of the project.***

### XIV. RECREATION —

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on the scope and location of the project.***

### XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC — Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***“No Impact” determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, November 2009.***

#### **XVI. UTILITY AND SERVICE SYSTEMS — Would the project:**

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) Result in a determination by the wastewater

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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***"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer, November 2009.***

## **XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE —**

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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# Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation Measures

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## **Hazardous Waste Materials**

### ***Regulatory Setting***

Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are regulated by many state and federal laws. These include not only specific statutes governing hazardous waste, but also a variety of laws regulating air and water quality, human health and land use.

The primary federal laws regulating hazardous wastes/materials are the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The purpose of CERCLA, often referred to as Superfund, is to clean up contaminated sites so that public health and welfare are not compromised. RCRA provides for “cradle to grave” regulation of hazardous wastes. Other federal laws include:

- Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) of 1992
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act
- Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)
- Atomic Energy Act
- Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

In addition to the acts listed above, Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control, mandates that necessary actions be taken to prevent and control environmental pollution when federal activities or federal facilities are involved.

Hazardous waste in California is regulated primarily under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, and the California Health and Safety Code. Other California laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup and emergency planning.

Worker health and safety and public safety are key issues when dealing with hazardous materials that may affect human health and the environment. Proper disposal of hazardous material is vital if it is disturbed during project construction.

### ***Affected Environment***

The following resource was reviewed: Asbestos Survey Reports for Districts 01, Caltrans Maintenance Stations and Office of Environmental Engineering South Hazardous Waste Database. Asbestos content in the roofing system is unknown.

The sole reason this document is an Initial Study is because the property is on the Cortese List. The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning document used by the State, local agencies and developers to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. Government Code section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to develop at least annually an updated Cortese List. Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List. Other State and local government agencies are required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List.

Once a property is listed on the Cortese List, even if it is in the process of clean-up and remediation or if it's been cleaned up, the property will be on the Cortese list forever.

The contamination related to the Cortese listing is or was in the subsurface of the parcel, not in the buildings. The contamination originated from leaking underground fuel tanks that has or is in the process of being remediated.

The first location, the District One Office Building, 1656 Union Street in Eureka, had underground fuel tank serving as an emergency generator. When the tank was removed, it was noted that a small release had occurred. Impacted soils were subsequently removed and the oversight authority closed the case.

The second location, the Equipment Shop at 1650 Albee Street in Eureka, had a leaking underground fuel tank which served fueling operations. Over excavation of impacted soils removed the threat to water quality and this case location was also closed later by the oversight authority.

The third location, the District 1 Maintenance Facility in Ukiah had leaking fuel tanks, wash rack discharge injection wells, and floor-drains leakage. A soil remediation system is currently operating at the site.

***Impacts***

No impacts will occur.

***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

During construction, in the event that a suspect material (asbestos) is encountered, testing will be performed and proper precautionary actions will be taken.

## List of Preparers

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The following Caltrans North Region staff contributed to the preparation of this Initial Study:

**Beth Thompson**, Associate Environmental Planner. Contribution: Environmental Study Coordinator and Document Writer.

**Lupe Jimenez**, Senior Environmental Planner. Contribution: Environmental Branch Chief.

**Erick Wulf**, Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology). Contribution : pictures.

**Joan Fine**, Associate Environmental Planner (Architectural Historian). Project review and exemption determination. Prepared Historical Resources Compliance Reports to file.

**Rebecca Loeffler**, Associate Environmental Planner (Natural Science). Contribution: Project biologist, Biology No Adverse Effects Memo.

**Jason Lee**, Associate Environmental Planner. Contribution: Initial Site Assessment (Hazardous Waste).

**Steve Werner**, Engineering Geologist. Contribution: Cortese list information.

**Marsha Freese**, Landscape Associate. Contribution: Visual Impact Analysis Report, (Landscape Architect).

**Tom Cary**, Project Engineer. Contribution: Project description, mapping, purpose and need and discussions.

**Sharon Tang**, Air Specialist. Contribution: Air Quality Report.

**Saied Zandian**, Noise Specialist, Contribution: Noise Report.

**Ted Schultz**, Transportation Engineer. Contribution: Water Quality Analysis.

## **List of Technical Studies that are Bound Separately**

Visual Impact Assessment October 2009

Air Quality Report October 2009

Noise Report October 2009

Biology No Adverse Effects Memo October 2009

Amended Initial Site Assessment October 2009

Water Quality Analysis October 2009

Historic Resource Evaluation Report (HRER) October 2009

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August 25, 2009

**TITLE VI  
POLICY STATEMENT**

The California State Department of Transportation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no person in the State of California shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity it administers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randell H. Iwasaki".

RANDELL H. IWASAKI  
Director